



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

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## Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on May 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at George Hail Library, located at 520 Main Street.\* The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Christine Lichatz Moe Clare, Spencer Morris, Ben Terry and new member Kathleen Tucciarone. Ex officio member Caroline Wells was absent. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

*\*meeting will be held on the second floor of the George Hail Library while renovations are being done to the basement of the Town Hall*

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2013**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on April 15, 2013 were reviewed by the board via email. The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

- Agenda Item 3 should read that Mr. Nash will attend EDB meetings in the future and will serve as liaison to the EDB
- Ms. Volino's name in Agenda Item 6 is correctly spelt Sara, not Sarah

A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of 15th, the motion was seconded by Ms. Dionne, and all members were in favor.

The board welcomed Ms. Tucciarone as a new member.

### **2. Update from way finding signage work group**

The gateway signs have been completed and installed. Mr. Lombardi reported that Judy Fardig was upset because another sign was taken down during the installation, but he made sure the sign was reinstalled promptly. New directional signage is needed for Rt. 136 near Malik's Liquors as well as on Railroad Avenue. The signage workgroup plans to meet on May 29<sup>th</sup> to make plans for future directional signage. Ms. Dionne said she would meet with Caroline Wells before the meeting to discuss the process.

### **3. Update from downtown cleanup workgroup**

Ms. Lichatz requested funds from the EDB budget to prepare a booklet of plants to be used in landscaping the downtown and business district. The board also discussed the

proposed tree ordinance which was tabled at the Town Council meeting earlier in the month. The board agreed that there are positive and negative aspects to the proposed ordinance and that residents need more information in order to make informed decisions. Ms. Lichatz, Mr. Morris and Ms. Tucciarone agreed to work together to review the proposed ordinance and to prepare a statement from the EDB regarding the ordinance when it is reintroduced by Town Council later this year.

#### **4. Update from transportation workgroup**

Mr. Terry and Mr. Spencer have plans to meet and develop an action plan on this item. The board discussed the O'Grady Bill and the proposed changes in state funding for public transportation.

#### **5. Storefront improvement grant status report**

The board further discussed ways to help promote the business district storefront improvement project as well as ways to effectively provide guidance to property owners. Ms. Dionne said she would contact the Town Manager and/or Council President Stanley regarding the status of the review of the town signage ordinance and the status of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **6. Discussion of expenditure of \$2500 funds being held for EDB project**

The board took the following action on the \$2500 funds for the EDB:

Ms. Volino made a motion that \$500 should go to the ShipShape Challenge, the motion was seconded by Mr. Morris, and all members were in favor.

Ms. Volino made a motion that \$600 should go to scenic banners to promote outdoor activities in Warren, the motion was seconded by Mr. Clare, and all members were in favor.

A motion was made for \$1400 to be put towards landscaping improvements at Town Hall, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino, and all members were in favor.

#### **7. Discussion regarding fall 2013 speaker for special EDB public meeting**

Due to the time, this item will be discussed at the June EDB meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Lombardi, the motion was seconded by Mr. Morris, and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald  
June 14, 2013



